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by the several States. It also shows 26,000 miles of railway in operation in the United States, and nearly 3000 in Canada, and some 8000 or 10,000 more in process of construction, and about 6000 miles of canals.

The PRESIDENT.—I need not say that we are very much obliged to Mr. Poor for his very lucid explanation of this large and valuable map. When he tells the geographers, who have just adjudicated their gold medal of the year to his distinguished countryman, Professor Bache, that this map is founded in great part on the coast survey, we know what value is to be attached to it.

2. *Notes on Borneo.* By Lieut. C. A. C. DE CRESPIGNY, R.N., F.R.G.S.*

A. *Ascent of the River Limbong.*

Labuan, Sept. 7, 1857.

DEAR DR. SHAW,—I enclose you a map or plan of the Limbong River, for the information of the Royal Geographical Society. May I beg you to send a copy to the Admiralty, as my time runs so short that I shall not be able to make one.

With regard to the Limbong, but little can be said of interest. I ascended it in preference to any other river, because it runs through a less elevated country than the others in the neighbourhood, and therefore its ascent at this time of year would be comparatively more easy, and because the late irruption of Kyans into the country about its upper parts created a desire to inspect the scene of their devastation.

I found the country on either side of this fine stream thinly peopled, and the inhabitants very poor. In the upper villages, among the Bisayans, the people lived, in addition to their rice, upon wild hogs and snails, principally the latter. The Malays near the mouth of the river, and for 50 miles up, cultivate rice and sago, but not much, for fear of becoming rich, when they would fall the prey of one of the numerous Bruni pangerans (feudal chieftains). The formation of the country appears to be sandstone, slate, clay containing iron, blue clay, fine loam, and decayed vegetable matter. I passed two rapids, the lower running over large pebbles of sandstone; the upper, sand and snags. I passed also the ruins of two villages destroyed by the Kyans, who, in number 3000, had taken 100 heads, and two others deserted by the inhabitants, who had moved lower down the river. In front of one of these was a rude wooden statue in honour of taking a Murut chief. I arrived

* See Proceedings, Royal Geographical Society, vol. i. p. 205, &c.—ED.

at Damit, the temporary residence of the Kyans during their descent on this country, and found the remains of 30 large temporary houses, capable of accommodating 2000 persons. I was struck with the fact, that most of the floorings, raised, of course, a few feet from the ground, inclined towards the centre, like our Crimean huts. I was informed by a wandering party of Bisayans, in search of hogs, that there was another encampment a short distance higher, and that I was within 30 miles of the place where the Kyans haul their river-boats overland from the river Barram into the Limbong. My provisions, however, ran short, and not a plateful of rice or a single fowl could be purchased from the poor victims. It had been my intention to proceed slowly down the stream and to make little excursions on either side at interesting points, but under these circumstances I was obliged to descend as rapidly as possible. I would, if I thought the Society would be interested, write a much more detailed account of my trip. I am about to sail in my prahu for Malídu Bay, to pass the rainy season. In January, or soon after, I shall ascend the Barram.

Believe me very faithfully yours,

C. A. C. DE CRESPIGNY.

B. *Visit to Malídu Bay.*

Labuan, Nov. 22, 1857.

SIR,—ACCORDING to previous determination, I sailed from Labuan in my prahu on Sunday the 13th of September, and, notwithstanding the very heavy weather, arrived off the mouth of the River Bongan, which flows into Malídu Bay, on the evening of the 21st, without having experienced any damage beyond the loss of my boat and one anchor. I must confess that I was not a little anxious as to what kind of a reception would be given me—my former visit to the bay as a midshipman in H.M.S. *Daedalus*, twelve years ago, having been on a very different errand, and one of the only two Englishmen who had since approached it in peace having been most vilely murdered; but my arrival having become known, my mind was soon made easy by a visit I received the same evening from the Pangeran Badruddin, who came down the river accompanied by all the xeriffs, his sons, and nephews, to welcome me. I informed him that I was not a merchant, and had come to visit him, and, with his permission, to explore the country in the vicinity. The Pangeran promised me all the assistance in his power, and begged me to make his house my residence as long as I chose. “I shall only beg of you,” said he, “to allow me, when you return to Labuan, to

accompany you, as I wish to proceed to Singapore on a mercantile visit." To this arrangement I with pleasure acceded. We accordingly ascended the river on the following morning, and I took up my abode with the Pangeran.

There is no necessity to detail to you the conversation I held with the Pangeran: suffice it that I was charmed with his amiability, surprised at the extent of his knowledge of European affairs, and amused at the volubility with which he rattled out question after question upon all subjects. Who built the pyramids of Egypt? What is the population of China? How much did the Sultan of Turkey pay England for her assistance in the war against Moscow? I enlightened him to the best of my ability upon these and a thousand other points, one of which was—What is the cost of the Queen's dinner every day?—and in my turn derived much information from him respecting the neighbouring country.

September 27.—I walked twelve miles to Mausolug, the nearest Dusun village, accompanied by two of my Malays and a party of Dusuns, where I was heartily welcomed. I was much pleased with the inhabitants and their domicile; the men being well built and muscular, the women tolerably handsome, and very different in appearance to the wretched inhabitants of the Limbong, of whom I wrote to you in my former letter.

Their village, containing about 200 inhabitants, consisted of two long houses, like those of the Muruts and Bisayans, with this difference, that they are not so high above the ground and the front is quite open: moreover, everything is kept as clean as a new pin. Having submitted with a good grace to their curiosity—my clothes, my arms, myself, each in turn becoming the subject of animated discussion—the Dusuns then commenced their evening amusements, the men mending their river-nets, carving handles for their swords, tops for their spear-heads,—the women busy at their basket-work. I folded my rug around me about midnight, and from time to time drowsily opened my eyes as a burst of louder laughter struck upon the ear. At what time they retired I know not, but on my awakening on the following morning at early dawn I found my savage friends all up and busy pounding rice for the morning meal, and I am sure the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society will be amused when they hear that near me were two children playing at cats-cradle exactly as I remember to have played it in my own childhood.

I wandered for more than a week among the mountains to the eastward of Mausolug, and then returned to Bongan, glad enough to get under the roof of a house once more, for the temporary huts

erected by the Dusuns among the mountains were not so imperious to rain as they might have been.

On October 16th I set out, in spite of the rain, on another expedition to the southward, with the intention of reaching, if possible, the Lake of Kinibalu; but, although it was only five days' walk, I found on the third day that the river was so swollen that the fords were impassable, and this, with the fact that three of my men were taken ill with diarrhoea, determined me to put off my visit, until a more favourable season, and content myself with gaining as much information as I could of the country in the vicinity. The name of the village where I was then stopping is Marak Parak, which contains about 300 inhabitants. It was with a sad heart that I turned my face again northwards towards Bongan, which place I reached in a few days, and on the 15th of November left the river and returned to Labuan.

Having given as succinctly as possible an outline of my excursion, I now proceed to give you the information I gathered of the country, and its inhabitants.

Geographically the two ranges of hills which enclose Malúdu Bay enclose also a tract of country extending 23 miles to the southward and 19 or 20 in a longitudinal direction. This is an alluvial district of about 450 square miles, the soil a red earth, composed of detritus of sandstone with decomposed vegetable matter, very favourable to the growth of palms. The Dusuns have a tradition of a time when the sea washed the foot of the mountains at Limbong Batu, where the delta of the Bongan may be said to have its apex. Into Malúdu Bay flow no less than 15 rivers, of which the principal are, the Binkoka on the east, inhabited by Bajaus, where there is coal; the Sugud, inhabited by Sulus; the Bongan, the only one of any length, by Malays; the Malúdu, by Malays; and the Tamiaru, exclusively by Dusuns. The banks of the other rivers are inhabited by Dusuns or Bajaus. The hills, which, rising at the extremity of each cape, gradually, as they approach the apex of the delta, gain an altitude of about 2500 feet, are composed of sandstone and shale, the ridges about 12 feet wide, the sides inclining at an angle of about 45° , in many cases very precipitous spurs of the mountains running out in all directions. From a height their appearance resembles the wash of the sea when the wind is against the tide, on a more extensive scale—ridge rising above ridge, spurs of mountains fouling each other, the whole a heap of confusion. In the delta are two small lakes, one in the neighbourhood of Bongan, two fathoms deep, two miles long, and fifty or sixty, occasionally a hundred, yards broad when the rains have been unusually heavy. The other

is of an oval shape, near the river Landik, two miles its greatest breadth, three fathoms its greatest depth; both are fresh-water lakes. The river Bongan itself, rising in the mountainous region of Kinibalu, is at its mouth not wider than 100 yards, and at full and change the depth is $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathom, which is maintained more than a mile out to sea, when the water deepens, so that small vessels only can enter the river. Within its mouth it is navigable for eight miles. The tide is felt about two miles from the embouchure, and the water is fresh at ebb tide half a mile from it. The mountains on the west of Malúdu are also sandstone. In one hill are masses of iron pyrites. Above Limbong Batu the hills on the left bank are of sandstone, and presented the same appearance as those first described. To the east of them runs the Bongan, here a mountain stream tumbling over the masses of rock that at various times have fallen down the side of the mountains into the river. The valley of the Bongan is from two to five miles wide. Beyond that river are the Natu Hills, beyond which flows the Natu River, which joins the Bongan a little above Limbong Batu. To the west runs the Buam River, which joins the Malúdu a little below. Beyond it the Buam Hills are 2500 feet high.

At Marak Parak I first observed granite, large masses of which lay in the bed of the river, together with syenite, serpentine, and sandstone. The banks of the river, in some places 20 feet high, were composed of a conglomerate consisting of large round pebbles of sandstone, and other stones of the above description, embedded in a hardened clay, now indeed as hard as the stones themselves. This conglomerate was evidently in former ages deposited by the river itself, which has since worked its way into a deeper channel.

The Dusuns brought me pieces of crystal, of mica and of green soapstone, but, as they set a, to me, fabulous price upon them, I did not purchase any.

Marak Parak is situated at the foot of M. Kapokan, 8000 feet high. I did not ascend it very far, but in all probability the granite formation here first shows itself, as, although the base was sandstone, the mountain did not present the same appearance as those of the north. By observations and cross-bearings I found myself much to the east of where I should have imagined the river to run, Mount Kinibalu bearing from me w.s.w. I had thus, as it were, got on the other side of the mountain, as it appears from the sea, and here I received information of the lakes. The appearance of Kinibalu from this vicinity is that of a huge mountain rising abruptly in the west, its crest sloping away gradually to the east, until it is lost sight of behind the tops of the nearer hills. Between

this range and Kapokan runs the river Sabuk. I should think it not unlikely that the principal ridge runs on and forms the peninsula of Ungsang, whilst other ridges, from the common parent, probably enclose the various great bays on the east and to the north of Ungsang.

Here, to my surprise, I found that I was not the first European who had travelled this way, for an old man called upon me one day, and, after some conversation, informed me that he perfectly remembered the fact of two white men from Balambangan coming to Kinibalu. "They could not manage to ascend it," continued he, "but they walked pretty nearly all round it." He informed me that there are two lakes, one halfway up the mountain, from which flow the rivers Bongan, Labuk, Luwanan, Kimbatungan, and Lam-pasuk, across which a man in a canoe might paddle in half an hour; the other, a very large lake to the south of Kinibalu, with many people living on its shores, and that the lake was salt, which I doubt.

In answer to my inquiry, the person in question said that the people on the other side of Kinibalu were very bad men, and killed every one who approached them. I said I had heard the same account of his fellow-countrymen, and he shook his head in depreciation of such a wicked report. However, there is a feud between the people on the north of Kinibalu and those on the south; also between the first mentioned and those of Mausolug, the place I first visited.

The inhabitants of this region, the Dusuns, or, as they are also sometimes called by the Malays, Idäan, are, for the most part, a fine, well-made, and not unhandsome race; the men muscular and well developed; the women, when very youthful, positively pretty, except their black teeth, but those above the age of 20 are worn out with the hard work assigned to them, pounding padi and carrying wood and water. Their dwellings are similar to the long houses of the south, except that the front is more open, as they are not afraid of the invasion of their hereditary enemies, the Dusún Tamis, living on the south side of Kinibalu. They have no written language, nor idea of time beyond the return of the seasons, and they know not even their own age. They have not, so far as I could discover, any religion, but they revere the name of Kina, their first leader, who having brought them to this land from another, ascended the mountain Kinibalu, and was no more seen of men. They also kept in remembrance the name of Hung-sum-ping, the brother of the Emperor of China, and Malekbatata, from the same country, whose names are connected with a curious legend.

I could see no similarity of features between this race and the Chinese, except that in childhood the upper eyelid is turned in, so that the eyelashes appear to protrude from the eye itself. There is also a peculiar feature which assimilates them to the negroes of Africa, viz. the protuberance of the shin-bone, which in children is slightly arched outwards—a peculiarity which, with the first mentioned one, disappears with years, for the limbs of the young men are as well proportioned as a Spaniard's or an Irishman's. The taboo is also practised among them. The cases which came under my observation were, that of a house in which lay a dead body; and another whose inmates had had a great sowing of padi. Doubtless there are other causes of taboo, of which I am at present ignorant. These people do not preserve the heads of their enemies, and the only parties among them who tattoo are those who have killed an enemy. The tattoo is invariably a broad band from the navel up to each shoulder, where it ends abruptly. A smaller band is carried down each arm, and a stripe drawn transversely across it for each enemy slain. I am happy to say I saw but few men tattooed, but one young fellow had no less than 37 stripes across his arms. Upon my inquiring as to where he had been so fortunate, he pointed towards the river Labuk. There appears to be no particular disease prevalent among these people. Very few were affected with skin disease; no appearance of smallpox, and, although the Malays of Bongan were nearly all suffering from weak and inflamed eyes, I did not observe one instance of this distressing affliction among the Dusuns. A few cases of consumption came under my notice both among the Malays and Dusuns. With regard to their numbers, if the whole district is as thinly peopled as the parts I visited, there cannot be more than 12,000 in the whole tribe or nation. How it is that, with a well watered country, a healthy climate, peaceful occupations, and a perfect independence—for their freedom, unlike that of the Dyaks of the south, is not at all affected by the proximity of the Malays—they have not increased and multiplied to a greater extent, I am at a loss to conceive.

The language spoken by the Malays of Malídu Bay differs a little from that spoken at Bruni, many words being borrowed from the Sulu—such as *timus* for *garam*, salt; *piasan* for *kalapa*, cocoa-nut; and others—while the pronunciation differs in these respects, that the sound *ch* is always pronounced *s*—as in *kuching*, a cat, which becomes *pusing*. Here, also, the *Orang-utan* (which is very common) is known by the name so familiar to English ears: the word “*meias*,” given by Sir J. Brooke as the name of this ape in the languages of the Durgahis of the north-western coast, is not

understood by them. The language of the Dusuns sounds at first, from the frequency of words having the accent on the last syllable and not as usual in Malay on the penultimate, unpleasant from its roughness, but after a little while it is not unmusical to the ear. Some words are identical with the Sulu, many with the Malay, and others very similar to the latter. The prefix "meng" is common in their verbs, even when the words are different from Malay. I did not remark any affix such as are frequent in the latter language.

In their social institutions the Dusuns or Idaan are cleanly in their habits, and their dwellings are neat and tidy in the interior.

I was present at a birth, a marriage, and a death. No ceremony took place on these occasions, but after the birth, the mother died in a few hours from hemorrhage and exhaustion. When there was no doubt of her being in a dying state, she was brought out of her little cabin, and laid in the general long room or verandah, where all the people gathered round her and commenced a howling chorus which emulated that of a troop of their own dogs, and which was continued until the spirit had fled. The marriage I spoke of was performed by torch-light; a hog was killed and a feast held, after which a chorus was sung by all the women and children for several hours, which was really very pretty, but of its purport I am ignorant, and the happy couple were at length dismissed with loud acclamations.

Concerning the produce of the country I can say but little. Rice of a good quality is grown on the slopes of the mountains. Of fruit there was but little, the cocoa-nut, jack-fruit, mango, and banana, with a small durian, making, I believe, the sum total, and these in but small quantities. Of vegetables, the small sweet potato and the onion mark the beginning and end of their knowledge. Tobacco of an excellent quality, and highly esteemed by the Malays, is grown in larger quantities than nearer Bruni. The forests produce a little camphor and a little bees'-wax, much damar, two kinds of gutta-trees, and perhaps even more, caoutchouc, rattans of great length, and probably many more useful commodities which my want of opportunity prevented my observing.

I am not prepared to say anything definite on the subject of trade at present, except that I have met in the course of my journey in the north many native traders and others from the eastern portion of the Archipelago. My next trip will probably be to some of the rivers on the eastern side of Borneo, and on my return I trust to be able to communicate to the Society some interesting information. If I had but a gun-boat, or, better still, such a steam-boat as they

have built at Bristol, in two parts, for the Australian rivers, I might defy a fleet of pirates, with which those seas are now more than ever infested; but in my poor, defenceless, crazy old prahu, I confess I look forward to the day of my return to Labuan with some little degree of anxiety.

I enclose a map of the country I traversed, for the information of the Society.

I remain, &c.,

C. A. C. DE CRESPIGNY, R.N., F.R.G.S.

The PRESIDENT.—I am glad to see you applaud this communication, because when our young friend, Lieut. De Crespigny, started upon his most perilous adventure he certainly undertook an enterprise which seemed almost Quixotic, for he received scarcely any assistance, and had merely permission to travel from the Admiralty. He had, however, the goodwill of the Society and our "Hints to Travellers." Now, without knowing anything of the interior of this vast country, of which, indeed, geographers were entirely ignorant, this Lieutenant of her Majesty's navy undertook to explore this remote region, and I think you will agree with me that he has exhibited the spirit of a true geographer, and that we ought to thank him heartily for his communication.

3. *Account of an Expedition from Damara Land to the Ovampo, in search of the River Cunene.* By MESSRS. GREEN, HAHN, and RATH.

A LETTER from the Rev. C. Hugo Hahn, dated Barmen, October 7, 1857, has appeared in the 'Cape Town Commercial Advertiser,' describing the disastrous issue of a journey taken by himself and his colleague the Rev. Mr. Rath, together with Mr. F. Green, from Damara Land to the Ovampo, in search of the River Cunene. A published letter from the latter gentleman has also been received.

The missionaries pursued the track of Mr. Galton and Mr. Andersson as far as the Omoramba K'Omanbonde, where they left it and followed the river bed. After a few days they unexpectedly met with Mr. F. Green, who also wished to travel to the Cunene, and who informed them that the Omoramba ended abruptly, about 40 miles farther on, in a sandy soil. Consequently the two parties joined together and proceeded northwards. They ultimately fell in with another river-bed running n.w. (I believe the bearings to be magnetic) and they followed it. This brought them unexpectedly to a small lake situated about 32 miles e.s.e. of the Etosha salt pan. It was well stocked with flamingoes, pelicans, and other water-fowl, and its circumference was judged by Mr. Green to be 20 miles. It is called Onondova, is occupied by Bushmen tributary to the Ovampo, and is the frontier of the pasture-grounds of Ovampo land. Mes-